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## CRIMINAL LABORATORIES AND MUSEUMS

belonged to another workman, from whom it had been stolen, together with 30 marks wrapped up in it. The stolen money was found in the manure pile. The suspected farm hand confessed both the stealing of the fruit and of the money."

J. W. G.

**The Criminal Museum of Berlin.**—A writer in a recent number of the *Revista penale* describes the criminal museum of Berlin as a sort of central institute for the instruction of the police and other persons charged with the protection of property and the maintenance of the public safety. Although not the largest institution of the kind now in existence, it, nevertheless, possesses the most varied and valuable collection known. It is not intended to be a mere show-place or curiosity shop, but a place of instruction. By means of the great number of objects which have been collected and arranged according to scientific principles one is enabled to study criminality in all its phases and become acquainted with the methods and instruments of crime. There are shown anthropometric measurements, Bertillon records, palm impressions, photographs and other agencies for detecting crime. Weapons, instruments for burglary and all the modern apparatus now used in committing crime are arranged on shelves and tables for convenience of study. American enterprise and ingenuity are charged with the responsibility for providing a large part of the paraphernalia now used by European criminals. There are establishments in America, we are told, that are engaged in the manufacture of drills, lock-picks, master keys, "jimmies" and other appliances for breaking safes and opening doors, to say nothing of deadly weapons of every conceivable variety, many specimens of which have been collected by the criminal museum. Among the interesting exhibits is a huge safe whose walls appear bent like sheets of paper. The rivets of the safe were broken through the use of oxygen—a process requiring skill and knowledge not possessed by ordinary thieves.

J. W. G.

**Belgian Laboratory of Criminal Anthropology.**—Through the initiative of M. Renkin, Minister of Justice, a laboratory of criminal anthropology has been established in connection with the Belgian state prison at Forest and will be under the direction of the prison physician, Dr. Vervaeck. The purpose of the laboratory is to provide the facilities for the anthropological study of criminals confined in the prison, the number of whom averages about 8,500 annually. Careful scientific observations and studies will be made of the physical and mental characteristics of criminals by specialists and the results made public in the interest of penal and criminological science. Dr. Vervaeck has recently announced his plans for the conduct of the laboratory and the methods of investigation to be pursued, which latter, he says, must be strictly scientific and impartial and without reference to any particular criminological theory. Similar laboratories have been in existence for years in Italy and Germany, and recently one has been instituted at St. Petersburg (see this JOURNAL, for November, 1910, pp. 618-619). In this country Arthur MacDonald has been advocating for years the establishment by the national government of a somewhat similar agency at Washington, but so far without result (see this JOURNAL, for May, 1910, p. 103 *et seq.*). European experience has long ago abundantly established the practical value of such researches and the examples thus set will in time doubtless be followed in America, where criminal science has hitherto made but little progress.

J. W. G.